

University of California - Davis

Please find the description of UC Davis-TNAU activities as of the last report.

This has been a very successful startup year for our collaboration with TNAU. In Paul Singh's initial visit to TNAU, he identified 6 scientists with our TNAU partner that would be the first group to be exchanged. These six scientists have successfully completed their training in various aspects of Horticulture and Post Harvest Technologies, and have drafted a strategic plan for the Center of Food Quality and Safety.

We are now in the process of planning the first Annual Conference/Workshop at TNAU. This will be held January 30-February 2, 2006 and will consist of overview issues, a discussion of the draft plan for the Center, and the economics and PHT issues of the horticulture industry in Tamil Nadu. It is anticipated that this workshop will be of interest to the faculty, extension personnel and administration of TNAU, and the private sector in the area. It will also set the stage for year 2 exchange, and follow-up on dissemination of the information and skills of the technologies, and ultimately for the impact evaluation of the project.

The draft prospectus for the Conference/workshop is:

The goal of the workshop will be: *to pursue an implementation strategy for the development of the Center for Post Harvest Food Quality and Safety.*

The workshop will include

- presentations on the collaboration between UCD and TNAU
- the preliminary strategic plan as begun by the TNAU colleagues while they were in Davis
- an overview of the economics of PHT in theory and practice in Tamil Nadu
- an assessment of PHT
- a discussion of the implementation process to be established with goals, objectives, milestones and dissemination strategies.

The workshop will be held at the Educational Technology Center at TNAU, and will be simultaneously run at sites on the computer network at Agricultural College, Trichy; Agricultural College, Madurai, and other linked centers and stations. All partners will be invited, including the private sector, extension agents, educators and donors.

It is expected that the following sessions will be offered:

Session 1: Overview of the project

Project Leader TNAU: Overview

UC Davis: Overview and description of the strategic planning process Project Leader TNAU:

Strategic Plan: Draft of plan that was constructed here

Session 2: The Economics of a Center of Food Safety and Quality Overview of the economics of supply chain and marketing An assessment of the training received here, and economic analysis of the center

Session 3: Post Harvest Technology: From the Field to Food Processing

PHT: Field Engineering, transportation, packing, storing An assessment of the training received here and a description of the PHT workshop.

Session 4: A Plenary discussion of the strategic planning process and the establishment of the Center, leading to further identification of 'high priority' areas for additional skill training at UC Davis.

Each of these sessions will have presentations and discussions, with opportunities for small groups to discuss the implications for the project and the center.

We have completed the primary activities of our project plan to date, and it is our expectation that this project will be successful and will lead to a long and fruitful collaboration between UC Davis and TNAU.